GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2293
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2002
ANTI-FERTILITY VACCINE FOR WOMEN
MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether human clinical trials initiated as part of the research on the anti-fertility vaccine for women launched in 1983 by the ICMR has entered the final Phase-III stage;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to phase out the vaccine under research which has undergone Phase-I and Phase-II trials;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Department of Biotechnology is funding any individuals or research foundations to develop an anti-fertility vaccine for women;

(f) if so, the details in this regard;

(g) whether any anti-fertility vaccine for women are being funded in India by multinationals or international agencies in any governmental or private institutes;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) number of women who participated in the Phase-I and II clinical trials carried out byDepartment of Biotechnology from 1987 onwards?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) The human clinical trials initiated as part of the research on the anti-fertility vaccine, i.e. BhCG developedby the National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi under the project `Immunological Approaches to Fertility Control` have not entered the Phase II trials as yet. The candidate vaccine completed Phase I &II clinical trials. Detailed analyses of the clinical data suggested several basic issues to be addressed at research level, before large scale trials could be taken up.

(c) & (d) Currently, the vaccine which went through Phase I & II trialsis being studied further. Research to enhance the immunogenicity and sustainability of the vaccine in a genetically heterogeneous human population using non-B-T-cell epitopes and in basic immunology is presently going on at NII.

(e) & (f) No project as on date has been funded to any individual or research foundation to develop an anti-fertility vaccine for women.

(g) & (h) No anti-fertility vaccine development for women is being funded in India by the multinationals or international agencies in any governmental or private institution;

(i) In all, 140 volunteers participated in Phase I clinical trials conducted at 5 centers. Under Phase II, 110 human volunteers participated in trials at three centers.